

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/723,313	FISCHER ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John C. Hong	3726	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 10/31/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19 and 22.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|---|

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 5, line 2; Claim 22, line 5 and 11, "frustrum has been changed to -- frustum--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to teach: Regarding Claim(s) 1, A method for sealingly coupling a first component and a second component. the method comprising: forming a polymer male portion attached to the first component, wherein the male portion has a first axis and a first bore extending therethrough wherein the male portion comprises a first stop surface, a second stop surface and an annular sealing portion intermediate the first stop surface and the second stop surface; forming a polymer female portion attached to the second component, wherein the female portion has a second axis and a second bore extending therethrough wherein the female portion comprise: a third stop surface, a fourth stop surface and an annular ring intermediate the third stop surface and the fourth stop surface; urging the male portion towards the female portion so that at least one of the first stop surface is adjacent the third stop surface or the second stop surface is adjacent the fourth stop surface; and subjecting the annular ring to a compressive force in an oblique direction with respect to at least one of the first axis and the second axis by

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contact with the annular sealing portion; Regarding Claim(s) 13, A method of manufacturing a coupling system for sealing connecting a first component to a second component the method comprising: forming a polymer male portion attached to the first component wherein the male portion has a first axis and a first bore extending therethrough wherein the male portion comprises a first stop surface, a second stop surface and an annular sealing portion intermediate the first stop surface and the second stop surface; and forming a polymer female portion attached to the second component, wherein the female portion has a second axis and a second bore extending therethrough wherein the female portion comprises a third stop surface, a fourth stop surface and an annular ring intermediate the third stop surface and the fourth stop surface, wherein the first stop surface is matable with the third stop surface to form a first seal, wherein the second stop surface is matable with the fourth stop surface to form a second seal and wherein the annular ring deformably engages the annular sealing portion to form a third seal when at least one of the first seal and the second seals are formed providing a clamping means for tightening the male position in to the female position whereby the annular ring contacts the annular sealing portion; and Regarding Claim(s) 22, A method for sealingly coupling a first component and a second component, the method comprising: forming a polymer male portion attached to the first component wherein the male portion has a 1st axis and a first bore extending therethrough, wherein the male portion comprises a first stop surface, a conical frustum with an exterior surface and a tip; forming a polymer female portion attached to the second component, wherein the female portion has a second axis and a second bore extending therethrough. wherein the female portion comprises a stop surface, a recessed female receiving portion, one of the exterior surface of the conical frustum and the recessed female receiving

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portion having an annular ring for engaging the other of the exterior surface of the conical frustum and the recessed female receiving portion; urging the male portion towards the female portion so that the stop surface of the male portion is adjacent the stop surface of the female portion; and subjecting the annular ring to a compressive force in an oblique direction with respect to at least one of the first axis and the second axis in combination with the other elements of the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John C. Hong whose telephone number is 571-272-4529. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F(07:00-16:30)First Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bryant can be reached on 571-272-4526. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Hong', written in a cursive style.

John C. Hong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3726

jh
November 13, 2005